

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims provided below is intended to replace all prior versions of the claims. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage device for long handle tools, the storage device comprising:

a base panel with a top surface, ~~and~~ a base perimeter that defines a base panel size and shape, and a bottom side arranged so that the base panel rests on a ground surface;

a plurality of tool handle receptacles provided in the top surface of the base panel;

a plurality of risers extending upward from the base panel;

an upper panel with a perimeter that defines an upper panel size and shape, the upper panel being supported solely by the risers above and spaced from the top surface of the base panel; and

a plurality of tool handle openings formed through the upper panel,

wherein any one or more of the plurality of tool handle openings, the plurality of tool handle receptacles, the upper panel, and the base panel are constructed and arranged to counteract a tipping moment on the storage device created by inverted long handled tools with a handle end received through the tool handle openings and in the tool handle receptacles.

2. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein each of the tool handle openings in the upper panel is positioned generally overlying a corresponding one of the tool handle receptacles in the base panel.

3. (Withdrawn) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein each of the tool handle openings in the upper panel is positioned directly vertically over a corresponding one of the tool handle receptacles in the base panel.

4. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein one or more of the tool handle openings in the upper panel are positioned generally vertically over and offset horizontally relative to a corresponding one or more of the tool handle receptacles in the base panel, the offset being in a direction sufficient to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.

5. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein a moment negating portion of the base panel is provided at least along a part of the base perimeter and extends sufficiently horizontally outward to at least partly counteract the tipping moment in a direction toward the moment negating portion.

6. (Withdrawn) A storage device according to claim 5, wherein the base panel is generally circular and wherein the moment negating portion is provided along the entire base perimeter.

7. (Original) A storage device according to claim 5, wherein the base panel size and shape are substantially identical to the upper panel size and shape, other than at the moment negating portion of the base panel and a corresponding portion of the upper panel.

8. (Original) A storage device according to claim 5, wherein the base panel size and shape and the upper panel size and shape are substantially identical.

9. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the base panel size and shape and the upper panel size and shape are substantially identical.

10. (Withdrawn) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the tool handle receptacles in the base panel are through openings.

11. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the tool handle receptacles in the base panel terminate at blind end surfaces.

12. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 11, wherein each blind end surface is angled to urge an end of a tool handle of a long handled tool received therein toward a desired ~~direction within~~ side of the receptacle to cause the long handled tool to tilt in order to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.

13. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the base panel and upper panel are generally triangular in shape to adapt the storage device for installation in a corner of a room.

14. (Original) A storage device according to claim 13, wherein each of the base panel and the upper panel include a front facing portion and an opposite rear corner facing portion, and wherein the base panel front facing portion extends horizontally forward sufficient to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.

15. (Currently Amended) A storage device according to claim 13, wherein the tool handle receptacles in the base panel terminate at blind end surfaces, and wherein each blind end surface is angled to urge an end of a tool handle of a long handled tool received therein toward a side of the receptacles nearest the base panel front facing portion ~~within the receptacle~~ to cause the long handled tool to lean toward the opposite rear corner portion of the upper panel in order to at least partly counteract the tipping moment.

16. (Original) A storage device according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of risers, the base panel, and the upper panel are each formed from a plastic material.

17. (Currently Amended) A corner storage device for long handles tools, the corner storage device comprising:

a base panel having a top surface and a generally triangular shape with a front end and a back corner;

a plurality of risers extending upward from the base panel;

an upper panel supported solely by the risers above and spaced from the base panel, the upper panel having a generally triangular shape with a front end and a back corner positioned corresponding respectively to the base panel front end and back corner;

a plurality of tool handle openings formed through the upper panel; and

a plurality of tool handle receptacles provided in the top surface of the base panel, one each positioned generally underlying a corresponding one of the tool handle openings in the upper panel,

wherein any one or more of the plurality of tool handle openings, the plurality of tool handle receptacles, the upper panel, and the base panel are constructed and arranged to counteract a tipping moment on the storage device created toward the respective front ends of the upper panel and base panel by inverted long handled tools with handle ends received through the tool handle openings and in the tool handle receptacles.

18. (Original) A corner storage device according to claim 17, wherein one or more of the tool handle receptacles is adapted to cause a long handled tool received therein to lean in a direction toward the back corners of the upper panel and base panel.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A corner storage device according to claim 18, A~~
corner storage device for long handles tools, the corner storage device comprising:

a base panel having a top surface and a generally triangular shape with a front end and a back corner;

a plurality of risers extending upward from the base panel;

an upper panel supported by the risers above and spaced from the base panel, the upper panel having a generally triangular shape with a front end and a back corner corresponding respectively to the base panel front end and back corner;

a plurality of tool handle openings formed through the upper panel;

a plurality of tool handle receptacles provided in the top surface of the base panel, one each positioned generally underlying a corresponding one of the tool handle openings in the upper panel, and

wherein ~~the~~ one or more tool handle receptacles has a blind bottom surface that is angled downward toward the front end of the base panel and relative to a plane of the base panel to cause ~~the~~ a long handled tool received therein to lean in a direction toward the back corners of the upper panel and base panel in order to counteract at least part of the tipping moment created on the storage device toward the respective front ends of the upper panel and base panel by long handled tools received through the tool handle openings and in the tool handle receptacles.

20. (Original) A corner storage device according to claim 18, wherein the one or more tool handle receptacles is horizontally offset relative to the corresponding one or more of the tool handle openings in a direction toward the front end of the base panel to cause the long handled tool therein to lean in order to counteract at least part of the tipping moment.

21. (Original) A corner storage device according to claim 17, wherein the front end of the base panel defines a moment negating portion extending sufficiently forward relative to nearest ones of the tool handle receptacles in order to counteract at least part of the tipping moment.

22. (Withdrawn) A corner storage device according to claim 21, wherein the size and shape of the base panel is essentially identical to the size and shape of the upper panel.

23. (Withdrawn) A corner storage device according to claim 17, wherein the size and shape of the base panel is essentially identical to the size and shape of the upper panel.

24. (Original) A corner storage device according to claim 21, wherein the front end of the base panel extends further forward than the front end of the upper panel.